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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

8 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

9 DOBLER & SONS, LLC, a California
10 limited liability company,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 FRESH 'N HEALTHY, INC., a Delaware
Corporation; MARK WILLIAMS, an
14 individual; JACK PARSON, an individual;
MARK MCCORMICK, an individual;
STEVEN CINELLI, an individual; and
PRESTWICK PARTNERS, LLC, a
California limited liability company,

Defendants.

CASE NO.

C08-00113

RS

COMPLAINT

1. BREACH OF CONTRACT;
2. ENFORCEMENT OF PACA TRUST PROVISIONS [7 U.S.C. § 499e(c)];
3. VIOLATION OF PACA: FAILURE TO ACCOUNT AND PAY PROMPTLY [7 U.S.C. § 499b(4)];
4. ENFORCEMENT OF CALIFORNIA PRODUCER'S LIEN STATUTE [Food & Ag. Code § 55631]
5. UNJUST ENRICHMENT;

Plaintiff Dobler & Sons, LLC ("Dobler") complains and alleges as follows:

I.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction of this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as this action arises, in part, under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 7 U.S.C. § 499a *et seq.* ("PACA") and, more specifically, 7 U.S.C. § 499e(c)(5), which provides jurisdiction in the district courts of the United States to entertain actions by trust beneficiaries to enforce payment

GO 44 SEC. N
NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT
TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE SENT

FILED
2008 JAN -7 PM 3:17
RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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PA

ISS

AND

1 pursuant the PACA trust provisions. This Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over all other
2 claims, as they form part of the same case or controversy. 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a). In addition,
3 venue is proper in this Court, as the Defendants reside within the Northern District of California.
4 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

5 2. Plaintiff Dobler is and was, during all times material, a limited liability company
6 organized to do and doing business under the laws of the State of California, with its principal
7 place of business located in the Moss Landing, California. Dobler is and since 1951 has been a
8 family run grower and producer of fresh produce, which it sells to buyers, such as Defendant
9 Fresh 'N Healthy, Inc. ("Fresh 'N Healthy"). At all material times, Dobler was licensed by the
10 United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA"), license number 199514210017.

11 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant Fresh 'N
12 Healthy is and was, during all material times, a corporation having its principal place of business
13 located in the Hollister, California.

14 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Mark Williams
15 ("Williams"), Jack Parson ("Parson"), Mark McCormick ("McCormick"), and Steven Cinelli
16 ("Cinelli") are individuals who, during all material, maintained residences within the
17 jurisdictional boundaries of this Court.

18 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Prestwick Partners,
19 LLC ("Prestwick") is and was, during all times material, a limited liability company, with its
20 principal place of business located in the San Francisco, California.

21 II.

22 INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

23 6. This action arose in Hollister, California. Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy principal
24 place of business is in Hollister, California. Plaintiff alleges in this Complaint that Defendants

1 owe Plaintiff Dobler \$93,974.58 for fresh vegetables that Plaintiff harvested and delivered to
2 Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy from late July 2007 through mid-August 2007. The contracts for
3 the sale and purchase of this fresh produce were entered into in Hollister, California.

4 **III.**

5 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **(For Breach Of Contract)**

7 ***Against Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy only***

8 7. Plaintiff Dobler realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 6 of
9 this Complaint as though fully set forth in this paragraph.

10 8. From on or about July 28, 2007 through August 18, 2007, Plaintiff Dobler sold
11 perishable agricultural commodities to Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy at Fresh 'N Healthy's
12 request, for which Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy's agreed to pay Dobler \$103,974.58 within 10
13 days, plus interest at the rate of 18% per annum (on past due amounts) and attorneys' fees and
14 costs (should any action be commenced concerning the sums due).

15 9. On or about the date of each transaction, Plaintiff Dobler forwarded to Defendant
16 Fresh 'N Healthy an invoice for the transaction setting forth in detail the amount owed by Fresh
17 'N Healthy to Plaintiff Dobler for Fresh 'N Healthy's fresh produce.

18 10. Plaintiff Dobler has repeatedly demanded that Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy pay
19 the amounts due and owing under the invoices, which total \$103,974.58, but Fresh 'N Healthy
20 has only paid Dobler \$10,000.00 of this sum, which leaves a balance significantly past due and
21 unpaid of \$93,974.58.

22 11. Plaintiff Dobler has performed all conditions, covenants and obligations required
23 to be performed by it under the agreements for the sale and purchase of perishable agricultural
24 commodities.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

13. Plaintiff Dobler realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 12 of this Complaint as though fully set forth in this paragraph.

15. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, during all times material, Williams, Parson, McCormick, and Cinelli were officers, directors, and/or shareholders of Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy, controlled the day to day operations, management, and finances (including the PACA trust assets and the perishable agricultural commodities related assets) of Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy, had actual and constructive knowledge of the PACA trust, and were statutory trustees of the PACA trust assets that are the subject of this Complaint.

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1 and constructive knowledge of the PACA trust, and was a statutory trustee of the PACA trust
2 assets that are the subject of this Complaint.

3 17. Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. § 499e(c)(1)-(4) of the PACA, upon receipt of the produce
4 sold by Plaintiff to Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy, Plaintiff became the beneficiary of a floating,
5 non-segregated statutory trust on all of Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy's perishable agricultural
6 commodities, all inventories of food or other products derived from perishable agricultural
7 commodities, all receivables or proceeds from the sale of such perishable agricultural
8 commodities or products, and all assets purchased or maintained with PACA trust assets.

9 18. Pursuant to the trust provisions of the PACA [7 U.S.C. § 499e(c)(1)-(4)], Plaintiff
10 performed and fulfilled all duties required to preserve Plaintiff's PACA trust benefits in the total
11 amount of \$103,974.58, of which \$93,974.58 remains past due and unpaid.

12 19. The PACA trust requires Defendants, and each of them, as statutory PACA
13 trustees, to hold and preserve such goods, inventories, proceeds and receivables in trust for the
14 benefit of Plaintiff Dobler until full payment has been made to Plaintiff. Plaintiff alleges that
15 Defendants have failed to maintain the trust assets and keep them available to satisfy
16 Defendants' obligations to Plaintiff and to otherwise perform the requirements of the PACA trust
17 provisions, all in breach of their fiduciary duties and in violation of the provisions of the PACA,
18 7 U.S.C. § 499e(c)(1)-(4) and 7 U.S.C. § 499b(4).

19 20. Plaintiff is informed and believes and upon that basis alleges that during all times
20 relevant and continuing, Defendants, and each of them, transferred or diverted the trust assets
21 (e.g., receivables or proceeds derived from the sale of produce) for their own use and/or to third
22 parties in violation of statutory duties imposed on them by the PACA to preserve the trust assets
23 for the benefit of Plaintiff. [7 C.F.R. §46.46(c)]. The statutory trust created by PACA
24

1 unequivocally gives priority to the interests of Plaintiff to the PACA trust assets held by
2 Defendants.

3 21. As a direct and proximate cause and result of the wrongful acts and omissions of
4 Defendants, Plaintiff Dobler has suffered the loss of \$93,974.58, plus interest and attorneys' fees,
5 all of which qualifies for protection under the PACA trust.

6 V.

7 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **(For Violation Of Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act:**
9 **Failure To Account, To Make Full Pay Promptly, To Perform As Promised,**
10 **And To Maintain The PACA Trust)**
11 ***Against Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy Only***

12 22. Plaintiff Dobler realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 21
13 of this Complaint as though fully set forth in this paragraph.

14 23. Plaintiff Dobler has repeatedly demanded that Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy pay
15 the amounts due stated above, totaling \$93,974.58 for produce sold and delivered to Defendant
16 Fresh 'N Healthy as described above. Despite these demands, Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy has
17 failed and refused to truly, correctly and accurately account for and make full payment of the
18 proceeds of those transactions. Therefore, Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy (1) has failed to perform
19 the requirements of its contracts of sale with Plaintiff Dobler, express and implied, (2) has
20 breached its duty to truly and correctly account and make full payment promptly for the produce
21 that it purchased from Plaintiff, and (3) has failed to maintain the PACA trust, all of which are
22 "unlawful" acts under 7 U.S.C. § 499b(4).

23 24. As a direct and proximate cause and result of the wrongful acts and omissions of
24 Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy as alleged above, Plaintiff Dobler has suffered the loss of
\$93,974.58, plus interest and attorneys' fees.

VI.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

**(Enforcement of California Producer's Lien:
California Food and Agricultural Code § 55631)
*Against All Defendants***

25. Plaintiff alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 24 of this complaint as though fully set forth in this paragraph.

26. Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy is, and was at all relevant times, subject to licensure and Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy was in fact licensed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture as a processor and dealer of farm products.

27. Plaintiff is further informed and believes and thereon further alleges that during all times relevant herein Defendants, and each of them, were subject to licensure or were licensed by the California Department of Food & Agriculture as dealers and processors, or as agents of a dealer and processor, of farm products.

28. Plaintiff Dobler grew the farm product that it sold to and that Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy purchased from it for the purpose of processing the fresh produce and reselling it to Fresh 'N Healthy's customers.

29. Consequently, upon delivery of the fresh produce to Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy, the California Producer's statute gave Plaintiff a first priority lien prior in dignity to all other lien, claims or encumbrances (except limited labor claims and warehousemen liens) on the farm product and the receivables from the sale of the farm product. Cal. Food & Ag. Code §§ 55631, 55633, 55635.

30. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy has unlawfully removed from its control or ownership some or all of the fresh produce sold to Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy by Plaintiff Dobler and that Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy has

1 unlawfully assigned or transferred to themselves or to some third party the sales proceeds from
2 the sale of its processed farm products, all without first paying Plaintiff for the fresh produce that
3 it sold to Fresh 'N Healthy. Cal. Food & Ag. Code § 55638.

4 31. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful action, Plaintiff has been
5 damaged in the amounts due and owing under the invoices, totaling \$93,974.58, plus interest and
6 attorneys' fees, plus any late charges due under California Food & Agricultural Code §55881.

7 32. In addition, given Plaintiff Dobler's first priority lien rights to the farm products
8 in Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy's possession and Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy's statutory duty not
9 remove the farm products from beyond its control or ownership (unless the total proceeds of the
10 sale of the farm products are used to satisfy the debt to Plaintiff or unless Fresh 'N Healthy had
11 sufficient assets to pay the sum due Plaintiff), Defendants must disgorge any farm products or
12 proceeds from the sale of the farm products to Plaintiff.

13 33. Finally, Plaintiff hereby asserts its lien rights against any assets held by
14 Defendants Fresh 'N Healthy, from the sales of any commodities or farm products by Fresh 'N
15 Healthy, including but not limited to, the sale of products derived from the raw perishable
16 agricultural commodities sold by Plaintiff to Fresh 'N Healthy, to pay all amounts due Plaintiff
17 in satisfaction of its preferential producer's lien.

18 **VII.**

19 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **(For Unjust Enrichment)**
21 ***Against All Defendants***

22 34. Plaintiff alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 33 of this
23 Complaint as though fully set forth in this paragraph.
24

As a direct and proximate result of the wrongful conversion of funds due to Plaintiff, Plaintiff has been damaged and Defendants have been unjustly enriched in the amount \$93,974.58.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Against Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy Only

- ## SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Against All Defendants

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1 with Plaintiff Dobler's produce sales transaction with Defendant Fresh 'N
2 Healthy; and

3 G. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

4 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **(For Violation Of Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act:**
6 **Failure To Account, To Make Full Pay Promptly, To Perform As Promised,**
7 **And To Maintain The PACA Trust)**
8 ***Against Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy Only***

9 H. For an order requiring Defendant Fresh 'N Healthy to immediately account for
10 and promptly pay the sum owed to Plaintiff in the amount of \$93,974.58;

11 I. For contractual interest (18% per year) from the date Plaintiff's invoices became
12 due until paid in full, plus attorneys' fees and costs, as sums owing in connection
13 with Plaintiff Dobler's produce sales transaction with Defendant Fresh 'N
14 Healthy; and

15 J. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

16 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **(Enforcement of California Producer's Lien:**
18 **California Food and Agricultural Code § 55631)**
19 ***Against All Defendants***

20 K. For damages in the sum of \$93,974.58, plus any late charges due under California
21 Food & Agricultural Code section 55881.

22 L. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest.

23 M. For disgorgement by Defendants of any farm products or proceeds from the sale
24 of the farm products, until Plaintiff has been paid in full for its damages and
interest; and

N. For such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(For Unjust Enrichment)
Against All Defendants

- O. For damages in the principal amount of \$93,974.58;
- P. For prejudgment and post judgment interest;
- Q. For costs of suit incurred; and
- R. For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DATED: January 7, 2008

RYNN & JANOWSKY, LLP

By: 

MARION I. QUESENBERY
Attorneys for Plaintiff
DOBLER & SONS, LLC